13,000 Hectares did not recover fully leading to some loss in the yield. As most of the area has recovered, no specific relief has been considered necessary.

Export by STC

1575. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation has failed to boost exports through its official channels;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the STC has found fit to export diamonds to Zale Corporation of the USA which deals mainly edible oil;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to institute an inquiry to find out irregularities in the above deal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) STC has not made any export of diamonds to Zale Corporation.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Agency to provide Employment Abroad

1576. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any agency to provide employment to the Indian workers who seek employment abroad; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to constitute a National Employment Board to promote employment abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Recruitment can be carried out either by the recruiting agencies or the State-owned Manpower Corporations registered with the Government. The Indian construction companies also recruit workers directly for executing projects abroad after obtaining permission to do so.

(b) No, Sir.

Growth rate of employment during Sixth Plan period

1577. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what was the growth rate of employment during the Sixth Plan period;

(b) whether there has been any decline in the rate of employment during the above period; if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) what was the backlog at the end of the Fifth Plan period; and

(d) what was the number of job-seekers registered with the Employment Exchanges at the end of 1985?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) According to the Seventh Five Year Plan documents, the growth rate of employment during the Sixth Plan period was 4.32 per cent.

(c) The backlog of usual status unemployment was around 12 millions in the age group 5 and above.

(d) 26.3 millions job-seekers were registered with the Employment Exchanges at the end of 1985.

Reopening of Hotel Siddharth

1578. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management running the Hotel Siddharth in New Delhi, which was closed due to fire, has sought Government's permission to reopen the Hotel; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) According to

the management of Hotel Siddarth Continental, New Delhi, they have not submitted any application to any Government authority for permission to reopen the Hotel.

(b) Does not arise.

Food corporation of India

1579. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the loss to the Food Corporation of India as on 31st December, 1985;

(b) what was the quantity of foodgrains in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India as on 31st December, 1985; and

(c) what is the effect of the hike in issue price of foodgrains announced in January, 1986 on wiping off the loss of the Food Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The Food Corporation of India procures and issues foodgrains on 'no profit no loss' basis as per prices fixed by the Government. The difference between its operational cost and the issue prices is reimbursed to the Food Corporation of India in the from of subsidy. As per revised estimates of the Government of India the total foodgrain subsidy for 1985-86 (RE) is Rs. 1650 crores against which a payment of Rs. 1283.08 crores was released to the FCI upto 31st December, 1985.

(b) The stock of foodgrains with the Food Corporation of India as on 1st January, 1986, was estimated at 16.80 million tonnes. In addition, a quantity of 6.52 million tonnes of wheat on central account was with State Governments and their agencies. Thus the total foodgrain stocks in the country was about 23.32 million tonnes.

(c) The increase in central issue price of foodgrains is expected to result in **Reduction in consumer subsidy by about Rs. 33 crores during 1985-86.**

Security arran gements of Banks

1580. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of the rise in the number of bank dacoities in Delhi and the neighbouring States, Government have drawn up an acion plan to look after the security of all banks functioning in the Capital;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the action plan; and

(c) by when the said action plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) A meeting of the representatives of the public sector banks in Delhi, the representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Commissioner of Police for Delhi discussed the question of strengthening the security arrangements in banks' branhes in Delhi. The following instructions to banks were reiterated:

(i) to observe weekly off days in branches coinciding with the closing day of the market in the area;

(ii) each branch should have an armed security guard;

(iii) each bank branch should have a collapsible gate at the entrance properly chained and locked to allow entry/exist to only one person at a time;

(iv) there should be self-locking wire meshed cabines for Cashiers;

(v) each bank branch should have a proper alarm system which should not be feeble but should be a loud one; and

(vi) there should be periodical checking of security arrangements by senior officials of the banks. Most of the branches of banks in Delhi have implemented the above security arrangements.